

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION BUREAU  
CONCERNING THE BOMBING OF NANKING AND CANTON AS WELL  
AS THE ALLEGED ATTACK ON A CHINESE FISHING-BOAT  
(AT A FOREIGN PRESS CONFERENCE)

(September 29, 1937)

At Geneva, the bombing by Japanese air forces, especially the attack on Nanking and Canton was condemned. The Advisory Committee of the League of Nations approved a resolution to "Condemn solemnly" the Japanese air forces on the ground that they had attacked "open cities." However, there is absolutely no reason why Japan should be interested in the measures of the League of Nations. The Japanese, however, cannot but resent most bitterly the attitude of such an organization as the League of Nations to condemn Japan irresponsibly without positive proof relying upon very partial and in-accurate newspaper reports.

In the first place, the grounds of the resolution of the Committee of the League of Nations to insist that Nanking and Canton are open cities are false views. It is a well known fact that these cities are defended with fortresses and other military installations. We cannot help but hope therefore, that in the name of fairness and its prestige, the League of Nations would take actions only on concrete proof.

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It is very clear from the article appearing in the "South China Morning

Post" of Hongkong dated the 27th of September, how absurdly the news are reported with regard to the activities of our air forces. That is to say, on the 24th of September, the Reuter dispatch from Canton reported that as a result of the attack of Japanese air forces, several thousands innocent people of Canton were either killed or wounded, but the South China Morning Post pointed out that the above news were grossly exaggerated. According to the reporter of the Post who visited the Canton authorities in person and asked foreign residents there of the fact, the casualties of Canton people were no more than 100. Furthermore, although air raid alarm was sounded throughout Saturday and Sunday at Canton, no bomb was dropped in the city by the Japanese air force. The Japanese Government have issued statements on several occasions that the air raid by the Japanese Army and Navy is a part of military operations that Japan has been compelled to take in order to cope with the challenge on the part of China, and that the objectives of our air forces are never non-combatants but the Chinese army and their installations.

This is confirmed by the incident of Canton above referred to as well as later operations adopted by the Japanese force.

Furthermore, it is hardly necessary to recall that, with regard to a general problem of air raid, Japan maintained together with America in the Hague Conference in 1922 that the objectives of air raid be limited, but our contention was defeated by the opposition of Britain and France.

Now that things have come to such a pass, it is imperative that our Army and Navy should destroy enemy's fighting power by taking every and all opportunities, and they are now courageously fulfilling this duty. From the

beginning of the current incident, the Japanese air forces are strictly ordered to limit their objectives only to troops and military installations. Unlike the Chinese air force which attacked the "President Hoover," our air forces never attacked non-combatants purposely, nor did they ever drop bombs indiscriminately from a high altitude. Owing to targets being limited only to military objectives, the Japanese air force when bombing, had to dive, in spite of the danger of the Chinese defensive fire, and thereby sustained greater sacrifice; and there have been not a few cases, in which Japanese airplanes after taking off from their base had to come back with all the bombs they had taken because they could not find out their objective due to bad weather. These facts prove very clearly that the bombing by the Japanese air force was limited only to the Chinese Army and their installations.

In spite of the fact that the Canton-Hankow Railway transported a large number of Chinese troops and munitions to the north front for several days and nights, and the consequent sacrifice of our troops was naturally expected, nevertheless, it was not until the transportation of Chinese refugees was completed safely that the destruction of railroads and bombing of freight-cars transporting munitions were carried out by our air forces.

It is a great regret that under the present state of air fighting, the air unit, no matter how superior they are in the art of bombing, cannot be expected to have absolute accuracy in its bombing. Such being the case and in order to prevent injury to life, the Japanese air headquarters, when carrying out a bombing attack, sent a warning, as early as possible prior to

it, to the responsible authorities concerned for the safety of non-combatants, so that they may be enabled to take all necessary steps against our attack. This, of course, caused much strategic difficulties on our part, which, however, we were willing to forbear.

Under the present circumstances, Japan is prepared to take decisively every necessary step to destroy enemy's fighting power. It must, however, be noted that this measure is a result of the expansion of the incident which has been brought about inevitably by the challenge on the part of China. It was indeed the Chinese air force that attacked Shanghai on the bloody August 14th and dropped bombs on the International Settlement, the Japanese consulate-General and the Japanese warships. And, in defiance of our draft peace settlement and also in spite of efforts being made to avoid hostilities, China sent a large number of troops to the border of the Settlement and violated her solemn pledge.

Japan declares again in this connection that no nation has any right to attack non-combatants. With this principle in mind, Japan goes straight forward to attain her objectives, and is not shy of the responsibility due to her, but she firmly rejects partial and unfair blame.

The Chinese are very active of late in disseminating false propaganda over radio accusing the Japanese army of mass-slaughter of non-combatants and of destroying hospitals and schools, etc. Madame Chiang Kai-shek is also playing an important role of "propagandists" behind the scene. The fact that China came to employ such a method in propaganda means

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nothing but the loss of her ardor of resistance against Japan on account of our military operations especially our bombing on her military installations and the blockade of her coast line navigation by Japan.

The absurd propaganda of China, however, has brought about an effect which is contrary to her expectation. Foreign correspondents in Shanghai are very much complaining of the inaccuracy of information supplied them by Chinese spokesmen. Even Chiang Kai-shek for fear of losing public confidence in China through spreading false reports, ordered a few days ago proper control over disseminating unfounded information.

Chinese propaganda seems to be centered on operations of our air forces. They have broadcast that our airplanes abused the Chinese insignia or that two Japanese planes were brought down; however, this was nothing but a Chinese way of propaganda intended to cover the crash of Chinese planes. The Imperial Japanese army which is openly raising a punitive expedition, against the injustice and impropriety on the part of China can hardly think of surreptitiously using enemy's emblem or insignia, especially the Japanese soldier would rather die than to commit disgraceful conducts. The manners in which information was concocted by the Chinese was perfectly exhibited when an air raid on the Cathay Hotel, Shanghai, took place on August 14. The Chinese newspaper censors changed the word "Chinese planes" in the cablegram into "Japanese planes." To their surprise, however, owing to the context of the <sup>cablegram</sup> cablegram, it turned out to mean ridiculously that Japanese planes bombed the R.I.J.M.S. "Izumo."

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Due to such interference on the part of China with newspaper cables, foreign correspondents came to mail their dispatches, to Hongkong to cable them therefrom. There was all the difference in the world between such cablegrams and those despatched from Shanghai.

Another good example was the false report-that a Japanese submarine torpedoed a Chinese junk and caused a casualty of 300 people. However, the Japanese submarines have been strictly ordered not to attack junks. So that such an attack on a junk can neither be real nor be possible to imagine. Furthermore, there was no Japanese submarine cruising in the waters where the alleged sinking of the said junk was reported. I do not hesitate to declare positively that this information was absolutely nothing but a fabricated report.



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Archives and Documents Section of the Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 6 pages and entitled "Statement of the Director of the Information Bureau concerning the bombing of Nanking and Canton as well as the alleged attack on Chinese fishing-boats (at a foreign press conference) (September 29th, 1937.)", is an exact and true copy of the official document in the custody of the Foreign Office.

certified at Tokyo,  
on this 8th day of April, 1947

(signed) HIYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place  
on the same date

Witness: (signed) UTABE, Katsuma (seal)



## 五二、南京、廣東、遼寧及支那漁船攻襲説ニ關スル情報

部長談（於外人記者同會見）（昭和十二年九月二十九日）

月二十九日

幕府テハ日本連軍ノ侵襲、殊ニ南京、廣東ニ對スル攻マラ非難シ、聯盟  
諸國委員會ハ日本連軍カ「侵襲ノ被害」ヲ攻マラシムトテ、之ヲ「侵襲  
ニ非難」スル決議ヲ採シタ、我カ日本トシテハ、聯盟ノ非難ニ對シテ  
何等ノ心ヲ持セル由ハナシ、然レ聯盟トモアラウモノカ確ナル證據  
モナク、頻ニシテ不正當ナル新聞記者ヲ取上ケ無責任ニモ我カ非難  
スル態度ニ出テタルニ對シテハ、日本國ハ當々シキ憤懣ヲ發シマナ  
イノテアル

第一ニ南京、廣東等カ無防禦都市タトイフ聯盟委員會決議ノ點ヲ自  
然既ニ南京ノ事アリ、之ヲ南京カ無防禦他軍施設ヲ以テ顯メラレ  
テキルコトハ公知ノ事テアル。公正ノ點ニモ將又聯盟ノ威信ノ點ニモ、  
ソノ言動ノ確證ニ非クモノタルコトヲ希望セサルヲ望ミナシ  
我カ軍ノ活動ニ對シテ如何ニ荒唐無稽ノ報告カ行ハレルカハ、九月二

七日香港「サウス・チャイナ・モーニング・ポスト」紙ノ記事ニヨリ一日際然デアル即チ九月二十四日廣東「ロイテル」通信ハ日本航空隊ノ襲撃ノ結果無事ノ市民數千ガ死傷シタト報ジタガ、同紙ハ右報道ヲ以テ謗言モ甚シイト指道シタ。「ポスト」紙記者ガ直接エ廣東當局ヲ訪問シ、且ツ在住外人ニ事ノ眞否ヲ糾シタトコロ、廣東市民ノ死傷ハ百人ニモ達ナイトイフノデアリ、又土曜、日曜ノ兩日ハ廣東デハ斷斷ナク空襲警報ヲ鳴ラシテキタニ拘ラズ日本空軍ノ侵襲ハ市内ニハ投下サレナカツタノデアル。

日本陸海軍ノ空襲ハ、我國ガ支那ノ飛機場ヲ受ケテ已ムナク起シタ軍事行動ノ一環デアツテ、我軍空襲ノ目標ガ決シテ非飛機場ニ對スルモノデナク只支那軍及軍事施設ニ止マルコトハ我政府ノ屢々聲明シタ處デ、又コノ事ハ其ノ後ノ我軍ノ行動ニ徴シテモ明カデアル、更に想スル迄モナク空中攻撃ノ一般問題ニ關シアハ、日本ハ一九二二年「ハーグ」會議ノ際米國ト共ニ空襲目標ノ制限ヲ主張シタガ英佛ノ反對ニヨリ右ノ主張ハ不成立ニ終ツタモノデアル。

然シ乍ラ事變ニ至ツテハ、我陸海軍ハ一切ノ機會ヲ捉ヘテ敵ノ戰團力ヲ破壊スル必要ガアリ、我軍ハ勇敢ニコノ任務ヲ遂行シツツアルノデアル、日本空軍ハ今次事變ノ當初ヨリ、ソノ攻戰目標ヲ軍艦及軍事施設ニ限ル嚴命ヲ受ケテマリ、文部省空軍ノ「ブレンデント・フーヴァー」號ニ對スル機體ヲト選リ具ニシ非戰團員ト知リツツ之ヲ攻戰シタコトナク、又高空ヨリ機體ノ無差別投下ヲ行フガ如キコトモナイ、日本軍が軍事目標ノ爆撃ニ際シテ、彈着ノ位置目標ノミニマルを定メ、防禦砲火ノ危險ヲ冒シ急降下ヲ遂ゲ、コレが犠牲ヲ増大セル事、又一旦其地ヲ出セル飛行機が悪天候ノ爲目標ノ距離ナラザルニヨリ、彈ヲ抛イタマ、許さセル事實ニシテモ、ソノ彈が如何ニ攻撃施設及軍事施設ノミニアツカハ極メテ即座デアル、更ニ又、奥ノ邊が連日連夜多量軍艦及軍需品ヲ北方戦線ニ輸送シ、之が爲我軍ノ犠牲が當然豫測セラレタル状況ニアツタニ拘ラズ、我軍ハ避難者ノ無事ヲ待テ始メテ戦線ノ砂漠、軍需品輸送車ノ保護ヲ決行シタ後ナ次進デアル。但不幸ナコトハ、空中戦ノ現狀ニアツテハ、如何ニ技術優秀ノ飛行機ト

雖モ其ノ上絕對正確ヲ期シ得ザルコトデアル。右ノ事情ニヨリ且又人命ノ損傷ヲ避クル爲、日本空軍司令官ニ於テハ空軍ノ發行ニ關シ能ク限リ事前ニ警告ヲ發シ、以テ非戦闘員ノ安全ニ責任ヲ負フコト係當局ニ對シ一切ノ機關ヲ體ズルノ余裕ヲ與ヘタコトデ、我方トシテハ軍官上多大ノ不利ヲ蒙ルデタヌノデアル。

然シ乍ラ今日ノ清勢トナツテハ、彼國ハ既乎トシテ其ノ國力ヲ盡シタル一國ノ必要將何ヲ爲ルモノデ、右ノ機關ガ支那ノ排日ニヨル不可避的事變ヲ大ノ結果タルコトハ牢記スルヲ要スル、カノ血闘キ八月十日日上海ヲ攻メシテ其國領具、日本領具、兩國領具ニ其下ヲ奪テシタルモノハ其領具アル、而シテ一國ハ和平解決ヲ望ミズ、其對行爲回遑努力ノ尙進行中ナルニ由ラス其意ナル其約ヲ破ツテ多量兵隊ヲ其領ノ境界ニ送メタヌノデアル。

日本ハ如何ナル國モ非戦闘員ヲ攻メスル機關ナキモノナルコトヲ其ニ意ネテ其明ル「日本ハ如何ナル國モ非戦闘員ヲ攻メスル機關ナキモノナルコトヲ其ニ意ネテ其明スル」我々ハ右ノ原則ノ下ニ、一時目的ニ達スル

スルモノデサノ當然責フベキ責任ハ同然スルモノデナイガ何處不公平ノ  
非難ハ附ジテ歸スルモノデアル。

支那側ノ虚構宣傳ハ、最近愈々著シク曰ク「ニヨル共産黨國共ノ大暴走  
病除、學校ノ校則ヲ改定シ、蔣介石夫人モ「プロバカンデスト」トシ  
テ暗殺シテキルガ支那側ニ於テ行ル宣傳ヲ用キルニ至ツタコトハ、我ガ  
宣傳行商、殊ニ「事放散ニ對スル態度及沿岸航行進路」ニヨリ曰クニ對抗  
スル望ミヲ失ツタニ外ナラナイ、

併シ支那ノ虚構無窮ノ宣傳ハ、却ツテ效果ヲ達シテキル、支那側代辦  
者ノ供稱スル「ニュース」ノ不正確ニハ上海内外新聞紙モ不平タラ  
タラデアリ、蔣介石モ捏造「ニュース」ノ流布ニヨル支那ノ信用失墜ヲ  
憂ヘ今日前「デマ」報告ノ拘制ヲ命令シタ位デアル。

支那側ノ宣傳ハ二日迄純然陰ノ行爲ニ止中シ、日共側行爲ガ支那側ノ  
虚構ヲ利用シタトカ又ハ日共宣傳行爲ニ對シテガ虚構セラレタトカ放言シタ  
ガ之ハ支那側航行機ノ墜落ヲ被フ支那式宣傳ニ過ギナイ、支那側ノ不正  
不義ニ對シ、正々堂々應答ノ能ヲ失メテキル事同然ニ於テハ、我國ノ

9

文書ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル事

自分、林 銑六ハ外務省文藝委員ノ職ニ居ル者ナル所、茲ニ添付セラレ  
タル日本郵ニ依ツテ移カレ六頁ヨリ成ル前東京實業及支那海陸交通設  
計に関する情報部長談（於外人記者会見）昭和十二年九月二日ト稱ス  
ル書類ハ日英政府（外務省）ノ關係ニ關ル公文ニノ正誤ニシテ應當ナル  
事シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京

右署名並印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ為サレタリ

同日 於 國 所

立合人

林

銑

六

馬

二二



文部ノ出所並ニ成立ニシタル事

自分、林 有造ハ外務省文藝課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル所、茲ニ送付セラレ  
タル日、新聞ニ依ツテ看カレ六頁ヨリ、前東京府東京縣及支那海防政務説  
に關する情報部長談（於外人記者會見）昭和十二年九月二日ト稱ス  
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林

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同日 於 東京

立会人 湯 澤 修 郎